

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of preventing a ~~respiratory infection~~ ventilator associated pneumonia associated with intubation or mechanical ventilation, comprising topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is either intubated or about to be intubated a composition comprising an IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent ~~the respiratory infection~~ ventilator associated pneumonia.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 which consists essentially of selective oral decontamination.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the composition is an oral rinse.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the composition comprises about 0.03 wt% to about 0.3 wt% IB-367.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4 in which the composition is applied once or multiple times per day for 2 to 5 days.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 in which 3mL of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.
7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 in which the IB-367 is native IB-367.
8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the composition is also applied to the accessible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) A method of preventing ~~VAP~~ ventilator associated pneumonia, comprising topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is at risk of developing ~~VAP~~ ventilator associated pneumonia an aqueous composition

comprising: 0.3 wt% native IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, 10 wt% sorbitol, 3 wt% xylitol, 0.2 wt% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, 0.1 wt% lactic acid, 0.18 wt% methyl paraben, 0.02 wt% propyl paraben and water to balance and which has a pH of about 4, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent ventilator associated pneumonia-VAP.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 which consists essentially of selective oral decontamination.
12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10 in which a single 3 ml dose is applied per day.
13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10 in which the composition is applied for 2 to 5 days.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 in which 3 ml of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.
15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10, 12, 13 or 14 in which the native IB-367 is in the form of a hydrochloride salt.
16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10 in which the composition is also applied to the visible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.
17. (Currently amended) A method of preventing ~~a respiratory infection~~ ventilator associated pneumonia associated with intubation or mechanical ventilation, consisting essentially of topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is either intubated or about to be intubated a composition comprising an IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent ~~the respiratory infection~~ ventilator associated pneumonia.
18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 in which the composition is an oral rinse.
19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 in which the composition comprises about 0.03 wt% to about 0.3 wt% IB-367.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 in which the composition is applied once or multiple times per day for 2 to 5 days.
21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 in which 3 mL of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.
22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 in which the IB-367 is native IB-367.
23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 in which the composition is also applied to the accessible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.
24. (Canceled)